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Village Magazine*

March 2020

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The deadline for copy will be MID-DAY Friday 6 March 2020

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From the Editorial Team

Hi everyone,

We are so sorry to have to tell you all of the death of our former editor, Ann Brown. Ann died in Kings College Hospital on Monday 3 February following an unsuccessful attempt to remove a blood clot from her brain. We send our heartfelt condolences to Lee, Daniel and Callum. Ann will be warmly remembered by so many people here in Harrietsham, not least for her work as editor of this magazine.

Following our appeal for copy in February, we have received a variety of jokes, conundrums and copy. Thank you all so much. We appreciate all your contributions. If they are not in this issue please don't be offended. We have been overwhelmed. We will carry all unpublished items forward for future issues. Please keep your contributions coming. It's great to have a stock on hand for when the drought hits!

This month we feature the newly opened extension at St John the Baptist Church. Very impressive! We also include details of two charity events in March being staged by Harrietsham residents. We wish them both every success.

Have a great month

The Editorial Team

Please remember to email any photographs, articles of interest about Harrietsham, or recipes etc. that could be considered for inclusion to:

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Whilst every effort is made to include as wide a variety of information as possible each month, the editor reserves the right not to publish, or to edit, any item. The editor's decision is final. Responsibility for the information and views set out in articles and notices in this publication lies entirely with the authors.

Letters sent anonymously will not be considered. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

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St John the Baptist Parish Church

The last issue of the magazine showed a lovely picture of the Parish Church in winter on the front cover. Those of you who have driven past the church recently or walked through the churchyard will have seen evidence of builders working at the back of the church since July last year – what have they been doing?

Well, now the work is finished we can reveal that they have been constructing a new disabled toilet facility and kitchen area which is accessible from inside the church. This is to replace the rather uneven path to the north side of the tower which led to a very old (and cold) outside toilet!

The works were estimated to take 4 – 5 months hopefully to be completed before Christmas. However, any of you who have been involved in any building works know there are always snags. The work was held up for a month following the disturbance of human bones which required re-burial. The weather was also not kind to the builders but the work was eventually finished by the last week in January with the new facilities being dedicated in a regular Sunday service at the beginning of February taken by the Archdeacon of Maidstone.

The modern facility was designed by David Gullick of Clague Architects and duly passed by the Canterbury Diocese. The builders, Gransdens of Sittingbourne, have been painstaking in their attention to detail during the undertaking of the work to a 14th Century building. This has meant a huge cost which has been funded by Section 106 Monies plus very generous donations from the Friends of St John's, the Association of Kent Churches, a private Charitable Trust and the estate of Roger Irwin and his family.

We are looking forward to holding more functions in the church now that these new facilities are up and running. They include a larger open plan area as well as the kitchen. These will be available to the local community as well as church organisations. Our next Family Friendly Morning Worship service will be held on Sunday March 1 at 9.30am. Details of all our services are in the magazine and we would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to attend.

Richard Daking & Paul Hicks



*Looking in to the new extension
from inside the church*

Part of the new kitchen



The new disabled toilet accessed from inside the Church



Photos by Denise Williams

Church Extension

It may have been a long time coming but what a difference the provision of an inside W.C. and improved kitchen facilities have made to our lovely church, not to mention the relaying of the surrounding floor area which is so much safer.

I am sure that all people involved with catering in the church must be very grateful to the builders, plumbers, electricians etc. who have done the work and also to the local unsung heroes the churchwardens – Richard Daking and Paul Hicks - whose own lives have been more or less put on hold while they oversaw the project. Together with Ken Leach they also did much of the practical finishing work which produced such a splendid result.

Helen Hubble

Craft & Chat and Crafternoon

At the last few meetings of Craft and Chat, members have enjoyed making their crazy quilted pincushions and some have tried silk ribbon embroidery for the first time. Box of treats cards have also been created with Valentine's and other themes and at the March meeting of Craft and Chat, on Saturday 7 March between 1-4pm at Harrietsham Village Hall, the project will be a redwork embroidered Easter themed piece. When the embroidery is finished, the piece will be able to be used in a project such as a small cushion. Redwork looks good with rustic type fabrics like burlap or hessian but personally, I prefer it with Osnaburg as this fabric has quite a rustic look but is much softer than the other rustic fabrics and I can imagine an Osnaburg cushion with the redwork embroidery at the centre. Red gingham would also give an authentic look with redwork embroidery. As long as people who want to do this let me know in plenty of time, I will have the design printed on fabric ready for them to start embroidering and we will be using the split stitch (or Kensington stitch as it was once known) as an outline stitch. An embroidery hoop, red stranded cotton or cotton a broder 25 will be all that is needed along with a crewel needle and scissors.

Then, at Crafternoon, on Thursday 19 March between 2-4pm at Harrietsham Village Hall, Heather will be leading with her Easter egg box project. These would make great little Easter gifts for children or grandchildren and Heather will be making up kits (which members will have pre-ordered) so that people can make more than one if they wish. Everything will be provided for £1 a box except for the eggs to go inside and a small paintbrush for applying glue and scissors.

As ever, if the monthly projects don't appeal, members are always welcome to work on their own projects. Any questions, please contact Hazel Roots on 01622 851885.

Knit, Crochet and Natter

The March meeting of Knit, Crochet and Natter will be held on Thursday 26 March between 2-4pm at Harrietsham Village Hall. At the time of writing we are still looking forward to our second meeting and some of us have been working on charity projects in between times. I have already had one crocheted giraffe back from the donated kits and I am hoping that we will have some Twiddlemuffs finished soon. It would have been nice to help with the animal rescue crafting for Australia but, at the time of writing, they have apparently put donations on hold until they do a stock take, so we will see.

Anyone is welcome to come along and bring their own project or join in with one of our charity projects and we have plenty of donated yarn for these. There will also be help for anyone wanting to learn how to knit or crochet or, if they are stuck and need some help, there should be someone at hand to assist!

Any queries, please contact 01622 851885.

Hazel Roots

Harrietsham Gardening Society

The AGM took place on 21 January and the following were elected:

Chairman: David Oversby
Vice chairman: Kevin Harlock
Treasurer: Mike Flawn
Secretary: Pam Flawn
Committee members: Angela Gatland, Shirl Wood, George Evans

It was decided that the subscription would remain at £12 .A questionnaire was handed out to the membership to find out what the members consider to be important to the society's activities this year. We hope to have some new ideas to take our society forward.

Show committee

Chairman: David Oversby
Committee members: Kevin Harlock, Angela Gatland, Jill Evans, George Evans, Joyce Jordan

The present incumbents will continue this year to plan for the Village Show on September 5, please put the date in your DIARY!

A vote of thanks was given by Audrey Joy on behalf of the membership for the work of the committees.

To complete the evening Terry Clare gave a fascinating talk, "A life in the year of a Beekeeper ", on his life as a bee farmer. We learned so much about bees from their colours to their beauty and friendliness, their hives and their production of honey. Terry was particularly interested in the breeding of bees and how queens develop. We learned a lot! British honey is pure and does not contain antibiotics, whereas some imported honey does, was just one of the many important issues he raised. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is on 17 March when we will have our Spring Show. Please come along to see the Spring flowers on display and enjoy the scent from the daffodils and hyacinths.

Angela Gatland

Whist Club

The winners of the February whist drive were Judith Hollands & Mike Bean, the next whist drive is on Friday 6 March 2020, with a 7.30pm start.

Michael Gear



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Harrietsham Wives Group

Our new year started in the second week in January with our AGM. This was well attended, and we managed to get through the business fairly quickly with time left over for socialising.

We had a brief resume of our activities during 2019 and the committee were re-elected en bloc. We then moved on to a discussion about the distribution of the money which we had raised during the year. It was decided that we would split this between Dandelion Time, Demelza Hospice Care for Children and the Air Ambulance. We had already donated the money from our annual Auction to the latter charity. We have also been able to give half the money raised at the weekly Coffee Morning to St John's Church towards the upkeep of the building. I think all the members of the Wives Group should be pleased about the money we managed to raise during the year, which is always donated to local charities.

We had to postpone our Auction and so we decided to hold a Cheese and Wine evening with some entertainment for our February meeting. As was evidenced by the laughter which came from the hall, the members who attended enjoyed playing 'Beetle' (a game remembered by some of us from our childhood!). We even managed to drown out the noise from the puppy training classes! Audrey managed to score 3 Beetles and was declared the winner. This was followed by socialising whilst enjoying (non-alcoholic!) wine and cheese.

One of the decisions taken at our AGM was that future meetings would start at 7.30pm in the Booth Hall.

Our next meeting sees the return of one of our regular speakers Melanie Gibson Barton talking about the life and work of Edith Cavell. Melanie is a very lively and interesting speaker and we would welcome any ladies, new to the village, who would like to join our group.

Please contact me (01622 850652) if you would like any more information

Katherin Daking

WI

Rod Leeming joined us at our January meeting. He gave a very interesting talk on his time with the Special Branch, providing security for high profile people including well known politicians such as Lord Tebbit with whom he shared a great love of cricket.

For our March 12 meeting a talk by Nick Willoughby has the intriguing title, "A Life of Fish & Ships".

Chris Bone

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Since our February article in the Network we have learned that West Malling SMBC are closing down due to lack of membership. Why mention this you may ask? It is simply a reminder of how important it is for us to promote our own club here in Harrietsham by enrolling new players so that we do not suffer the same fate.

We are an active group, which is shown by the number of friendly games we play against other clubs, organised by our club captain David French. David and Barbara French reached the finals of the Boughton-Under-Blean annual bowls competition in January. Unfortunately, they lost this match to come second. Partnered by Bev Dillon they also entered the triples competition but did not do so well, however they did have the consolation of beating a team from local rivals ... Hollingbourne.

Our friendly games took us to Ditton where we lost a closely fought match by the narrow margin of two shots. This was followed by an away game at our nearest rivals Lenham which we won by some degree, but this was partly due to several Lenham bowlers being unavailable on the night. Our next game is at Kemsley SMBC, new territory for most of us, we will see how we get on there. In-between all this activity, 16 members met at the Great Danes Mercure Hotel and enjoyed lunch accompanied by songs and music from the show Dreamboats and Petticoats'.

Phil Gooda (Chairman/Secretary)

Harrietsham History Society

My thanks to everyone who came along to our workshop evening in January. We had a very productive evening sorting through another 8 boxes of material for the digital archive of village history. My thanks also to my neighbour's son James, who also came and has been helping us as part of his bronze D of E for the past few months, he is now quite interested in learning more about our village. At our next meeting on 16 March our speaker Wilf Lower, will be giving his talk 'Under Billowing Sails – The Romance of Tall Ships.' Although I am not into sailing as such I have always enjoyed the sight of the larger sailing ships in full sail and I am really looking forward to this talk. This meeting is the last one before our AGM in April and a good opportunity for anyone interested to come along as a non-member for a small charge of £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. More Information regarding our society and details of our programme for the rest of this year can be found on our website harrietshamhistorysociety.org

Peter Brown

Harrietsham in Bloom

Our annual quiz will be held on 28 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall. The cost is £7 per person. Bring your own food and drink. Maximum 8 persons per table. Please book your table with Andrew 859352 or Barbara 853754

Thankfully some of the flowers in the verges have survived the roadworks, but we have also planted many new bulbs. We are still short of volunteers to help with our tasks and would be grateful for any extra help offered. Please contact either of the above telephone numbers for further information. Thank you for your continued support.

Andrew Rogers (Chair) 859352

Race Night Fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support

On Friday 13 March, I am holding a Race Night fundraiser to support my marathon attempt this year. I have a goal of raising £2500 for MacMillan Cancer Support, a charity which I have been involved with for a number of years.

Cancer is a disease that 1 in 2 of us will get during our lives. In the UK 990 people are diagnosed with cancer every day. That's one person every 2 minutes. In 2013 that was my sister. My sister was 24 weeks pregnant when she noticed a lump. After going to the doctors she had the lump removed. This turned out to be a secondary tumour. She had a metastatic melanoma. In order to commence her treatment my nephew had to be born at 28 weeks via a C-section. During this time the doctors gave her 6 months to live. That was 6 years ago and she is still with us, still fighting against this horrendous disease. She is my hero as she has faced all of her treatment, hospital stays and ongoing illnesses with courage and a smile on her face.

Along the way she has had the support of many different organisations but Macmillan have supported and continue to support her and her family through the illness. The work they do enables families like my sister's to get through their treatment with the support they need. From counselling to providing money when people are unable to work due to their illness.

I have done some challenges in the past but nothing like this. This is by far the biggest, most daunting thing I have ever done. Yet, this is nothing compared to the suffering that my sister and other cancer sufferers across the UK go through just to make it through the day. I would love the residents of Harrietsham to support me in the event by donating or attending the event. The entry is £3 per person to attend the race night and full details can be found at the following link: www.facebook.com/events/2686347014812488/?active_tab=about. I am also looking for businesses to support the event, either by sponsoring a race for £25 or by providing raffle prizes. If you can support in any way please email me at antallred@yahoo.co.uk

Anthony Allred

Fish Scheme AGM

**The Annual General Meeting of the Fish Scheme will be held
on Wednesday 18 March 2020 in the Booth Hall,
Harrietsham Village Hall.
7.00pm for 7.30pm
All Welcome**

Harrietsham FISH Scheme is a voluntary scheme comprising Helping Hands and the monthly magazine Network which was set up in 1968. With the support of many volunteers we endeavour to provide those in need with transport to doctors' surgeries and to local hospitals and other essential journeys. FISH also organises a range of activities and events including an Elevenses group each month for those who wish to stay involved in the social life of the Village.

The FISH Scheme committee and its volunteer helpers continue to try to ensure that all newcomers to the village are warmly welcomed. They are given a copy of the Welcome booklet, together with the current Network magazine, which contains information on services and amenities, and on clubs and societies which they can join so that, if they wish, they can quickly orient and integrate into village life.

The Fish Scheme obviously relies on volunteers, so if you have a little spare time and think you may be able to assist us please come along to our AGM or contact one of our committee members, or our Lift Organisers, contact details can be found on page 3 in the Network magazine or on our website **harrietshamfishscheme.org**. The Fish Scheme committee give their grateful thanks to all of their helpers for their continuing support and hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Peter Brown - Chairman

Harrietsham Village Hall Trust

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on 8 April 2020 in the Booth Hall at 7:30pm, please come along and support your committee. We are looking for new committee members to join us - if you are a member of any of our village clubs, you can join us as a representative, if not we can elect you on.

In the last year there have been some difficult decisions and we need a broader view of what the village thinks.

Look forward to seeing you there

Steve Brown - Chairman

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Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Priest in Charge: Rev Dr John
Huggins, The Vicarage, Old Ashford
Road, Lenham, ME17 2PX 850280

Assisting Priest

Rev Anne Price 01622 924963
revanne@lvb.org.uk

Available Wednesday- Sunday

Licensed Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 859 442

Joan Drury 853766

Benefice Office: tel 850604

ChurchOffice@lvb.org.uk

Answerphone when office not
manned.

For details of services see p.19

United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal

*Sunday Service at 10.30am with
creche.* No evening service

01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller

Office: 01622 686013

Sunday Services at 10.30am

with creche, and at 6.30pm

www.maidstonebaptist.net

Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, off East Street
Harrietsham

Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Pointer

Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100

Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and
Wednesday at 10.00am

Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted
736100

Confessions, Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

Saturday Evening Mass 6pm

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Weekday Mass generally

Monday and Tuesday 7pm and

Friday 10am

Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

Pathways Church, Maidstone

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month

at 10.30am in Lenham Community

Centre. Wednesday and Thursday

evenings in homes in Lenham and

Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Johnny and Estelle
McCabe www.pathwayschurch.org.uk

Pathways Church is supported by
Jubilee Church, Maidstone

Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

Minister: Revd Bonni-Belle Pickard

45 St Lukes Avenue

Maidstone ME14 5AN

Tel 752895

Sunday Service 10.30am

Len Valley Benefice Service Times

Everyone is always welcome to any of our services or events

Sunday 1st March

- 9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service (Alpha course)
- 9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30 am Harrietsham: Family-friendly Morning Worship
- 11.00 am Ulcombe: Informal Morning Worship
- 11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion
- 5.30 pm Harrietsham: Taizé Service

Wednesday 4th March

- 9.30 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 8th March

- 8.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service (Alpha course)
- 9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
- 11.00 am Lenham: Morning Worship
- 3.30 pm Boughton Malherbe: Evensong

Sunday 15th March

- 9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service (Alpha course)
- 9.30 am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
- 9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
- 11.00 am Ulcombe: Morning Worship
- 11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 18th March

- 11.00 am Chippendayle Lodge: Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd March

- 8.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Lenham: Big Breakfast Service (Alpha course)
- 11.00 am Boughton Malherbe: An Informal Service
- 11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 29th March

- 10.00 am Ulcombe: Joint Len Valley Celebration Service (Church Missionary Soc Visit)

The Len Valley churches Bible verse for the year

‘Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.’
(Isaiah 54:2)

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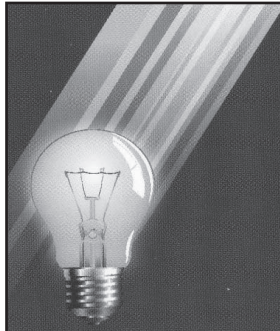
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Harrietsham Day by Day

(T = term time only)

SUNDAY

Tennis Club (May-Sept) 2.30pm Booth Field

MONDAY

Yoga Classes 9.30am - 11am Ambrose Hall T
 Short Mat Bowls 1.45pm - 4.30pm Ambrose Hall
 Brownie Guides 5.45pm - 7.15pm Booth Hall T
 Youth Hub 6.30pm – 8.00pm Village Hall
 History Society (3rd Mon) 7.30pm Village Hall

TUESDAY

Art Classes (Improvers) 2.00pm – 4.30pm Booth Hall T
 Beavers (age 6-8) 5.45pm – 7.15pm Scout HQ Station Road
 Cub Scouts 6.30pm – 8pm Lenham Primary School T
 Tennis Club (May-Sept) 6.30pm Booth Field
 Gardening Society (3rd Tues) 7.30pm Ambrose Hall
 Guides 7.00pm – 8.45pm Booth Hall T
 Lenham Youth Centre 7 – 9pm Swadelands T
 Bell Ringing Practice 7.30pm – 9pm Bell Tower

WEDNESDAY

Elevenes (2nd Wed) 10.30am – noon Booth Hall
 Mobile Library (fortnightly) 1.40pm – 2.10pm P.O. West Street
 Tai Chi Class 2.00pm – 3.00pm Ambrose Hall
 Ballet Academy 4.00 – 4.40pm Village Hall T
 Karate Club 6pm - 7.30pm Ambrose Hall
 Wives Group (1st Wed) 8pm – 10pm See magazine entry
 Parish Council (last Wed) 7.30pm Booth Hall

THURSDAY

Baby, Toddler and Parent Group 9.30am – 11.30am Ambrose Hall T
 Women's Institute (2nd Thurs) 2.00pm Booth Hall
 Crafternoon (3rd Thurs) 2.00pm – 4.00pm Village Hall
 Knit, Crochet and Natter (last) 2.00pm – 4.00pm Village Hall
 Rainbows (alt weeks) 4.30pm – 5.30pm Booth Hall T
 Tennis Club (May-Sept) 6.30pm Booth Field
 Explorers (Scouts) 7.15pm – 9.30pm Kingswood Scout HQ
 Short Mat Bowls 6.30pm – 10pm Ambrose Hall
 Choir Practice 6.15pm Parish Church
 Pub Quiz 8.30pm Roebuck

FRIDAY

Coffee Morning 10am – noon Booth Hall
 Scouts 7.30pm – 9.30pm Scout HQ Station Road

SATURDAY

Craft & Chat (1st Sat) 1.00pm – 4.00pm Village Hall

Harrietsham Network

Local Directory

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor Helen Easter 03000 412222/www.helenbeeken.co.uk

Beaver Scouts

Leader Duncan Keenan 07768 926654

Bell Ringers

Captain Ken Leach 851173

Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 859310

Booth and Baldwin Charity

Secretary email boothandbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

Brownie Guides

Brown Owl Andrea French 07901667018

Community Support

PCSO John Boyd 101

Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

Countryways Quilters

And Stitchers Pamela Gillard 01233 879507

Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/

Knit Crochet and Natter Hazel Roots 01622 851885

Cricket Club

Chairman Mr A Hubble 859692

Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 859829

Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 850863

Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 850863

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@g.mail.com

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 851075

Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 850657

Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 859412

Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

Kent Community Warden Mr M Sherwood 07977 981993

Kent Messenger "Your Local Pages"

Village correspondent Charlotte Lingard miss_lingard@hotmail.com

Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub

Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

Liberal Democrat Association Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman James Reed harrietshampfta@gmail.com

Pre-school 01622 851819

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Royal British Legion

Branch Chairman Mr Barry Wood 850702/barry.wood1112@outlook.com

Safari Supper

Organiser Mr R Bevan 859310

Scouts

Group leader Mr E Seales 859829

Leader Mr N Still 859789

Short Mat Bowls

Chairman Phil Gooda 01622851217/p.gooda@btinternet.com

Tai Chi Class Angela Akast 07754454030/akast.a@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

Secretary Mrs K Daking 850652

The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

The Poppy Appeal

Organiser Samantha Cast 07599 325326 and email

Deputy Organiser Richard Cast Harrietshampoppyappeal@btinternet.com

Ulcombe Pre-school

Chairperson Helen Leat 07511657828/ulcombepreschool@live.co.uk

Village Hall

Chairman Steve Brown chair@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

Whist Club Miss Denise Williams 859410

Wives Group

Leader Katherin Daking 850652

Women's Institute

Secretary Mrs J Tabrett 859224

Public Services and Emergencies

Doctors' Surgery (for either Lenham or Harrietsham) 01622 858341

Dentist, Lenham 01622 858204

Dentaline (out of hours emergency treatment) 01634 890300

Saxon Warrior Pharmacy 01622 858287

Hospitals:

Maidstone, ME16 9QQ 01622 729000

The Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury, TN2 4QJ 01892 823535

William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, TN24 0LZ 01233 633331

Councils:

MP – Helen Whately 01622 758053

Kent County Council 03000 41 41 41

Maidstone Borough Council – all departments 01622 602000

Harrietsham Parish Council – Parish Clerk 01622 850089

Police: Emergencies only 999 Non- emergencies 101

Samaritans, 48, Grecian Street, Maidstone 01622 674444

Citizens Advice Bureau, 2, Bower Terrace, Maidstone 01622 752420

Childline 0800 11 11

KCC Children's Social Services 03000 41 11 11

KCC Adults Social Services 03000 41 61 61



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March Diary

Sun 1 Mar 12 noon Advertising deadline for April Network

Fri 6 Mar 12 noon Copy deadline for April Network

Wed 4	7.30pm	Harrietsham Wives, Harrietsham Village Hall
Fri 6	7.30pm	Whist Club, Harrietsham Village Hall
Sat 7	9.00am - 11.00am	Morning in the Meadow, St.John's Church
Sat 7	12noon -2.00pm	Soup Saturday, Harrietsham Village Hall/Church
Sat 7	1.00pm - 4.00pm	Craft and Chat, Harrietsham Village Hall
Sat 7	7.30pm - 11.00pm	Charity Disco, Harrietsham Village Hall
Wed 11	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Friends of the Meadow, Parish Council Office, 4 Southfields Way, ME17 1GE
Thu 12	2.00pm	WI, Harrietsham Village Hall
Fri 13	7.00 - 11.00pm	Race Night Fundraiser, Harrietsham Village Hall
Mon 16	7.30pm	Harrietsham History Society, Harrietsham Village Hall
Tue 17	7.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society Spring Show, Harrietsham Village Hall
Wed 18	7.00 for 7.30pm	Harrietsham Fish Scheme AGM, Harrietsham Village Hall
Thu 19	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Crafternoon, Harrietsham Village Hall
Sat 21	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Invicta Concert Band, St.John's Church
Thu 26	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Knit, Crochet & Natter, Harrietsham Village Hall
Sat 28	7.30pm	HIB Quiz Night, Harrietsham Village Hall

Village Events Diary - for Your use!

Did you know? A diary is available in the Post Office for groups or individuals to enter event dates and information that would be helpful to other villagers.

Welcome to Harrietsham

A belated welcome to new residents at No. 18 and 47 Chippendayle Drive. Hopefully you will enjoy living in Harrietsham.

Audrey Joy (Meet and Greet)

Len Valley Community Hub Club

Our next meeting is Thursday 5 March 2020 at the Social Club High Street Lenham 2.00-4.00pm. We are having a quiz so thinking caps on and good luck.

Young at Heart 60+

Our next meeting is Thursday 19 March 2020 at the Community Centre Groom Way Lenham 2.00-4.00pm. Something different this time. Magic from a gentleman called John.

We look forward to seeing you all again.

If you wish to contact us please ring

Jenny 01622 859208 or **Nina** 01622 851970

Maidstone Borough Council News

On January 24 along with 300 residents from Harrietsham, Lenham, Platts Heath, Sandway, Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Charing, Egerton, our local MP and local Councillors, we attended a public meeting in Lenham Community Centre. Questions were directed at the Maidstone Borough Council Leadership Team, on the proposal to build a garden community at Lenham Heath. The Council have been encouraged to write a collective letter to the Housing Minister, on behalf of residents from the borough, challenging the government's housing proposals, rethink garden communities, not accept unsustainable housing levels, complete an infrastructure assessment and be transparent and work with local communities. Local impact of current proposals is unthinkable and a petition has been raised to challenge those proposals.

Tom and Janetta Sams - Borough Councillors

Patient Participation Group (PPG) Len Valley Practice

A patient's group was formed at Len Valley some 15 years ago to communicate patient issues to the practice and to support the Practice to improve the experience of patients attending the surgery. From 1 April 2015 the patients group was renamed the PPG as it became a contractual requirement for every GP practice in England to have one.

We meet bi-monthly with representatives of the Practice. We discuss any patient's concerns and how they may be addressed. The Practice Manager provides details of any changes at Len Valley.

Recent issues discussed include surgeries capacity, parking for Lenham surgery, flu clinics, appointment issues and the New Primary Care Network.

Minutes of the PPG meetings are on the PPG Notice Board in each Surgery Waiting Room and should be on the Len Valley website.

If you are interested in joining our PPG please contact our current chairperson by email carol.mckeough9@googlegmail.com or complete application form available on the practice website.

Primary Care Networks (PCN) are formed by groups of GP practices formally working together with a Medical Director to provide additional or extended services for all their registered patients. NHS England has funded the development of the PCNs. In West Kent there are 9 PCNs. Len Valley Practice is part of 'The Ridge' PCN consisting of: Orchard Surgery at Langley, Sutton Valence Group Practice, Bearsted Medical Practice and Headcorn Surgery.

More information can be found on 'The Ridge PCN' website <https://theridgepcn.co.uk>

The Joker!

A new family moved into my street. The new neighbour said, " Your house is the same as mine, how many rolls of wallpaper did you buy to do your hall, stairs and landing?"

"Twelve", I replied.

A week later he saw me putting the bins out and came over, "I had three rolls left over. ", he said.

I replied "So did I" !

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Sunday 11.00 am - 9.00 pm



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2020 seems to have come in all guns blazing. So much happened in January and as I sit to write this I wonder what will come raining down on us in February. We've already had the fire and floods, could it be the big freeze? The bulbs in my garden are coming through already and it's not yet February. Well my thoughts are looking toward March and Spring, so let's think positive. Come what may, we will be busy sewing.

Tuesday March 3 we will be back at Gail's Studio finishing off our patchwork bags. and Wednesday March 18 from 1:30pm till 4:30pm we will be in the Osbourne room at the Lenham Community Centre, for a Free Motion class taught by Chris. Sewing machine required for this class.

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2020 Program please contact me on 01233 877453 or e-mail moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Charing Farmers Market

The Market meets every Thursday 9:00am to 11:30am, with our usual stalls of plants, produce, and preserves (the three p's), and baked goods stall for your weekly staples. To keep it interesting we have an alternating assortment of craft stalls filled with knitted things, cushions, quilts, bags, cards, paper crafts, jewellery and hand spun yarn for your own knitting needs, with patterns and needles included. I will be there on March 5 and 19 with my handspun yarn, so I hope to see you there. Support your local traders and buy local!

Come check us out. There are always refreshments available.

We are in the Church Barn. To find us come park by the church in Market Square, then take the footpath along the left to the barn.

Pamela Gillard

Conundrums... (Answers on Page 42)

Did you know that in the UK you can't take a photo of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?

Name three consecutive days of the week without naming the days.

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4 box	£28	£280
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Charity Disco for Abigail's Footsteps

Saturday 7th March

grownups disco night at Harrietsham Village Hall 7.30-11pm

to raise money for the stillbirth charity Abigail's Footsteps.

Come and join us for what will be a great night dancing to some of your favourite music while raising money and awareness for the stillbirth charity Abigail's Footsteps.

Tickets £10 each. My email address **alyssaelyuk@hotmail.com** is the best way to contact me to arrange attending the night. Payment is through my justgiving page **<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alyssa-ely-cook>**. Names are added to a list when payment is received and checked off at the door on the night.

This year I will be running both the Landmark Half Marathon and the London Marathon for Abigail's Footsteps (**www.abigailsfootsteps.co.uk**) in memory of our daughter Rebecca. Instead of asking for sponsorship, I am asking people to support this event and have a great time..... Thank you.

Our story...

My aim is to run both the Landmark half marathon and the London Marathon in 2020! I will be running in memory of our daughter Rebecca who was stillborn at term following a 'normal' low risk pregnancy.

Rebecca was our second child. Feeling her move normally two hours before arriving at hospital in labour, we were excited to be adding to our family. No heartbeat was detected once at the hospital.

Leaving the hospital without our little girl was the hardest thing we have ever had to do and the weeks that followed are a blur. No parent ever thinks that they will have to register their child's death rather than their birth, nor organise their funeral but in the UK this is the fate 15 parents face every day.

Abigail's Footsteps are leading the way in this area. From the provision of bereavement training for midwives and care staff, to the purchase of cold cots, to the production of awareness film through the eyes of a mother whose child is to be stillborn, to the construction of dedicated bereavement rooms away from labour wards, to the production of detailed information booklets with advice and guidance from parents who have already suffered the loss of a child; the charity wants to do all it can to try and ease the pain endured by parents and their families affected by stillbirth.

A year and a day after losing Rebecca our rainbow baby boy Luca was born, healthy and happy.

Alyssa Ely-Cook

Lenham Library

Due to a refurbishment of the library, it will be necessary to close for approximately 6 weeks from Monday 3 February 2020.

We will be extending any loans due back during the closure to one week after the library reopens in March.

Any reservations during this time will be sent to Charing Library for collection. Alternatively, you can select a pickup location of your choice online, over the phone or in a library branch.

Charing Library

Market Place, Charing, Ashford, Kent
TN27 0LR

Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Thursday	9.00am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday	1.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 1.00pm

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but look forward to welcoming you back into our refreshed library!

To find other library details or to access some of our services online or by phone, please visit: www.kent.gov.uk/libs or call 03000 41 31 31

Thank You and Please

Thank you to all our deliverers of the Fish Magazine who brave whatever the elements throw at them and attempt to get the magazine to every household by the beginning of the month. A special thank you to David and Elaine Lowrey who share with me in the distribution. I always seem to manage to find people willing to help. (twisted arms?-never!)

Also in March I look forward, and ask those interested to :
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE of MAY 14th. This is when I hold my Ploughmans and Pimms, Pickles and Plants charity lunch. More details will appear in the April issue.

Jackie Bevan

Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622
Val Brown, Secretary 01622 858147



AGM of the Friends of St John the Baptist

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of St. John the Baptist church will be held in Harrietsham church on Saturday 4 April 2020 at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

100 Club Draw

Result of the Thirty-eighth draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club drawn on 11 January 2020 by Chris Roots at the Soup Saturday lunch event under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator).

116 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £116

First prize £58.00 – number 88 – Janice Brockwell

Second prize £34.80 – number 116 – Christine Harbord

Third prize £23.20 – number 20 – Brian and Angela Gatland

For further information and details of how to become a member of the 100 Club and raise money for the upkeep of our own church - contact the Administrator, Chris Roots on 01622 851885

Soup Saturday

The next Soup Saturday will be held in the church on Saturday 7 March 2020 between 12noon and 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a bowl of Helen's Hearty Homemade Soup with crusty bread. Tea/coffee and biscuits also available.

The Invicta Concert Band

Don't forget to book your tickets for the Invicta Concert Band to be held in Harrietsham Church on Saturday 21 March 2020, 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Tickets are £10 per person – cheese and wine included in the ticket price. Any profit made on the evening will go towards the upkeep of our beautiful village church.

A Meadow in the Heart of Harrietsham

Harrietsham Parish Council bought Teers Meadow for the village and is now running a project to help improve the site for wildlife and give people the chance to get involved with one of the gems of Harrietsham. The Meadow at the Heart of Harrietsham project will involve events for all the family, wildlife walks as well as the restoration of the meadow. This restoration has started this winter as the site has been fenced and some of the scrub has been removed. This will allow cows to graze the field in a way that helps wild flowers and animals to thrive in the meadow. Benches and information boards will also be installed over the next few months to help people enjoy spending time in the green spaces around Harrietsham. Parish Councillor Glenda Dean stated, "We would like people to come and visit Teers Meadow to find out more about the amazing wildlife that lives there and enjoy some of the beautiful countryside we are lucky enough to live in."

Forthcoming events. All events are free to attend.

Morning in the Meadow - Saturday, March 7 9am to 11am

Join us as we spend a couple of hours clearing up some of the chippings and leftover twigs from the scrub clearance. This helps create better conditions for the wildflowers to thrive in during the summer. Please dress up well with sturdy shoes and bring a rake if you have one. Your efforts will be rewarded with tea and biscuits! Meet outside St John the Baptist church on Marley Rd. No need to book.

Friends of the Meadow – Wednesday, March 11 7pm to 9pm

Do you want to know more about what is going on at Teers Meadow and get involved with helping to look after this wonderful village resource? Come along and find out some of the different ways to get involved at this meeting. We would like to set up a group that will help with looking after the meadow so this is your chance to get really involved and find out about how nature conservation works on the ground. Meet at the Parish Council Office, 4 Southfields Way, ME17 1GE. Please contact Mike Phillips at mike@whitehorseecology.co.uk or 07540 250320 if you would like to attend.

The Wild Spaces of Harrietsham - Sunday, April 26th 10am to noon

Spend a couple of hours strolling around some of the best places that Harrietsham has to offer for wildlife. Find out more about these special spaces and how we can make them even better. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Meet outside St John the Baptist Church on Marley Rd. No need to book.



Teers Meadow in Summer - Photo supplied by Mike Phillips



Just in case you have not heard about **Messy Church**, it is a series of free family events that run throughout the year, organised by the local churches of Harrietsham, Lenham, Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe. It's called 'Messy' because it's fun and informal and not like a church service at all...please come and try it out! We do crafty stuff, making things, stories and drama, games, music, films, and free food! We have also collected a huge stash of LEGO to build with.

This year's programme:

- 15/02/20 Messy Movie, Lenham, 5-7pm***
- 10/04/20 Messy Easter, Lenham, 10.30am-12pm***
- 11/07/20 Messy BBQ & Movie, Ulcombe, 5-7pm***
- 19/09/20 Messy Movie, Lenham, 5-7pm***
- 31/10/20 Messy Church, Harrietsham 5-7pm***
- 28/11/20 Messy Movie, Lenham, 5-7pm***
- 12/12/20 Messy Christingle, Lenham, 3- 5pm***

You can find out more on our website : <https://www.lvb.org.uk/whatson.htm>
or by calling the Church Office on 01622 850604.

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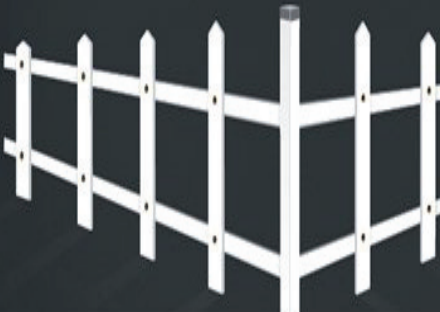
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Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Friday March 13 (evening)

*Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm
and*

Wednesday March 25 (matinee)

Performance begins 2.30 pm, doors open 2 pm

Welcome to Downton Abbey! Set in 1927, a year and a half after the events of the last TV series, the film stars most of the original cast and all of the original glitz and glamour. Downton is a-flurry with the excitement of a visit from King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (the inimitable Geraldine James). Its staff are battling against the royal entourage, and the Crawleys face unforeseen problems, not least a would-be assassin.

For more information please check out our website (www.lenhamfilmclub.org) or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com. Keep an eye open for our posters, follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub), perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

Running time: 2hr 3 mins. There's no need to book, just come along. Entrance fee (cash at the door) £5 for non-members; members £4. Refreshments available at reasonable cost. Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.

Thank YOU!

My nose is twitching once again,
I can't abide the smell.
It's coming from my shoe.
Oh no,
Guess what!
It's doggie poo!!!!

Now I love your little doggies,
And I'll fuss them one and all,
But come on folks, don't leave their mess
To sicken and appall!

Please, take your little bags
and your pooper scoopers too
And when your doggie's done his dump,
Take the poo away with you!

Christian Message

I packed my bag and in it I put.....

With milestone birthdays for us both and me retiring from brass teaching after 20+ years at Sutton Valence schools, my husband and I knew 2019 was set to be a time of change and a year of travel. In February Neill had a wonderful trip to New Zealand spending time with his daughter and, in April, I went on a much talked of, eagerly anticipated Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Then, fulfilling a life-time ambition, I arranged to do some voluntary teaching in The Gambia at Yalding School in Farato, a project founded and funded by donations raised by Karen Mackenzie, a former colleague at Kent Music School. So, after Last Post renditions, leaving a dull, grey November behind me, I accompanied Karen, joining her husband Tony, on one of their regular stays on site to put my music experience and crafting experience to good use.

After the pilgrimage I was telling people that I had left my heart in the Holy Land and now I add that I left my head in The Gambia. Experiences can be life-threatening or life-enhancing but I can only say that these two visits were mind-changing: both have significantly affected how I think, evaluate and appraise matters not only of religious practices, but ethics, ecology, politics, customs, human rights, domestic and economic standards and moral responsibility...and more!

I'd been shocked by the Wall of Partition in Bethlehem and the contrast between the Israeli and Palestinian areas we visited and, similarly nothing could have prepared me for the extreme poverty, vast amounts of debris and general lack of amenities in and round Farato. Compounds where many live are built mainly of corrugated, rusted panels and, in cramped conditions, have little more than very basic sanitary and culinary facilities. In some communities FGM is still practised and 'period poverty' is experienced by young girls.

Like me, you may be familiar with the memory game which begins, 'I packed my bag and in it I put...' but in this case (no pun intended) I was asked to pack an actual alphabet in the form of boxed word games as aids to teaching reading skills phonetically; also pens, pencils, paintbrushes and...footballs – thankfully deflated ones! Once re-inflated these were allocated one per class and presented to beaming pupils. Prior to my visit, there had been only one football for the whole school.

I quickly found myself immersed in the sounds, sights and routines of animated children – 40 per class and a team of staff, closely observed and much stimulated by Karen's hands-on educational expertise – all working in extreme heat (38° mostly) with very limited resources. The phonics boxes were put to immediate use and I spent part of each morning with Nursery 4 children helping them with puzzles and pronunciation.

In addition to this, I was able to devise and complete 3 craft projects with different age-groups. They created colourful fan-winged birds, rocking chickens and butterflies with symmetrical paint patterned wings which were instantly displayed in the otherwise rather bare classrooms.

I managed to practise my trumpet most days and, after writing out the words and notation for The Gambian National Anthem, visited each classroom to have a singing session prior to my final Friday whole school assembly when they all sang with gusto and trumpet accompaniment! "Let justice guide our nation towards the common good and join our diverse peoples to prove man's brotherhood."

It's said that life is a journey not a destination and that God meets you where you are. I can say that, despite wrong turns and bumpy roads at times, my travels have brought me to Ulcombe, and ten years ago gave me the opportunity to work as a Church Music Leader in the Len Valley Benefice where I have been privileged to meet many inspirational clergy people and forged valuable friendships. Across the 4 churches, when hearing of my planned trip, you gave generously – not just portable educational items but over £600 in donations to School Gambia. Karen wishes to invest this in publishing her new Gambian First Readers. I want to say a huge thank you for that and, also, for your prayer support and enthusiastic interest in what was for me a truly extraordinary experience.

Pauline Fisher

The Parrot's Tale

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude.

John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird spoke-up, very softly, "May I ask what the chicken did?"

Top Tips by Harrietsham Gardening Society

A gardener works to the rhythms of nature, in an annual cycle. The gardener's activity begins in March, when most plants start to grow after their winter dormancy. This month has the most pronounced variations of weather from day to day so the gardener must take advantage of dry spells to get on with the garden and the cultivation of plants and seeds.

1st week

Sow sweet peas outside, sow annuals for the greenhouse and for the garden, repot foliage plants, sow cauliflower and broccoli in a frame, broad beans in trays, plant rhubarb and strawberries and cucumbers for an early crop.

2nd week

Sow herbaceous perennials and alpines, seeds of geraniums and fuchsia, peas, pot early tomatoes sown in January and sow seeds for more tomatoes to plant out in June.

3rd week

Plant Autumn sown sweet peas, sow hardy annuals outside, plant gladioli, start cannas and dahlias, start begonias, sow carrots and leeks outdoors.

4th week

Prune roses, sow chard, lettuce, broad beans, peas, french beans in succession, plant melons. The expert may feel this is too arbitrary a scheme, contending that most garden tasks can be done over a longer period than indicated, but this is intended for the beginner with desire for guidance.

These were ideas from : YOUR GARDEN WEEK BY WEEK by A G HELLYER F.L.S.

Printed in 1936

They are still useful today, have fun and see what you can achieve .

We have the Village Show in September so hope to see you enter your wonderful flowers and vegetables Best of luck!

Hope the weather is kind.

Answers to Conundrums... (from page 31)

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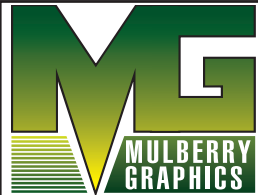
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